



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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ILLINOIS, South

ILZ075>078-080>094 **JEFFERSON - WAYNE - EDWARDS - WABASH - PERRY - FRANKLIN - HAMILTON - WHITE - JACKSON - WILLIAMSON - SALINE - GALLATIN - UNION - JOHNSON - POPE - HARDIN - ALEXANDER - PULASKI - MASSAC**

01	0100CST	0	0	ABNORMAL WARMTH
28	2300CST			

The month of February was one of the six warmest Februaries on record at both Paducah and Evansville. The mild temperatures provided area residents with unusual opportunities for outdoor recreation. Many trees and plants, including daffodils and forsythia, blossomed early. Unfortunately, the premature blossoms were vulnerable to late season cold snaps.

ILZ078-083-087 **WABASH - WHITE - GALLATIN**

04	1600CST	0	0	HEAVY SNOW
06	0600CST			

A major storm moving slowly north up the Atlantic coast combined with an east-west oriented trough over the Ohio Valley produced heavy snow. The western edge of the heavy snow shield extended into the lower Wabash River Valley, from Mt. Carmel to Carmi and Shawneetown. A storm total of 4 to 6 inches fell in these areas. Slippery road conditions contributed to a number of accidents, however no serious injuries or fatalities were reported.

ILZ084 **JACKSON**

19	0800CST	0	0	FLOOD
24	1200CST			

Heavy rains during mid month sent the Big Muddy River above flood stage at Murphysboro for several days. The river crested about two feet above its 16-foot flood stage. This resulted in very minor flooding of low lying, mainly agricultural areas. No damage was reported.

INDIANA, Southwest

INZ081>082-085>088 **GIBSON - PIKE - POSEY - VANDERBURGH - WARRICK - SPENCER**

01	0100CST	0	0	ABNORMAL WARMTH
28	2300CST			

The month of February averaged well above normal. At Evansville, this was the sixth warmest February on record. The mild temperatures provided area residents with unusual opportunities for outdoor recreation. Many trees and plants, such as forsythia and daffodils, blossomed early. Unfortunately, the premature blossoms were vulnerable to late season cold snaps.

INZ081>082-085>088 **GIBSON - PIKE - POSEY - VANDERBURGH - WARRICK - SPENCER**

04	1300CST	0	0	HEAVY SNOW
06	0600CST			

One of the heaviest snowfalls in recent memory blanketed southwest Indiana with a total of 10 to 14 inches of snow. The snow fell in two distinct bursts. The first period of heavy snow from the afternoon of the 4th into the wee morning hours of the 5th produced 6 to 8 inches. Snowfall rates during the peak of this burst were 1 to 2 inches per hour. The most intense snowfall occurred during the late afternoon rush hour, which caused major traffic headaches. A motorist was killed in a two-car accident on the Lloyd Expressway around 4 P.M. on the 4th. Countless minor accidents occurred, which slowed traffic to a crawl. A tractor trailer rig overturned on Interstate 164, closing that highway for a couple of hours. Strong wind gusts around 30 MPH caused some problems with snow drifting across roads that had been cleared. Almost every school, college, and university was closed. Some businesses were closed, and many clubs and associations cancelled meetings. The second burst of snow began during the afternoon of the 5th and continued into the wee morning hours of the 6th. Although snowfall rates were not as intense as in the first round of heavy snow, an additional 4 to 5 inches of snow fell. This brought snowfall totals for the two-day period up to a foot across most of southwest Indiana. This storm total was enough to make this the sixth snowiest February on record at Evansville. Despite the heavy snow totals, relatively warm ground temperatures combined with air temperatures right near the melting point helped road crews clear the primary roads fairly easily. The long duration of the storm was the result of a prolonged easterly flow of moist air from the Atlantic Ocean. A nor'easter type of low pressure system moved slowly north along the Atlantic seaboard. Lots of moisture from this storm was drawn westward into the Ohio Valley by an east-west oriented upper level trough.

KENTUCKY, Southwest

KYZ001>022 **FULTON - HICKMAN - CARLISLE - BALLARD - MCCracken - GRAVES - LIVINGSTON - MARSHALL - CALLOWAY - CRITTENDEN - LYON - TRIGG - CALDWELL - UNION - WEBSTER - HOPKINS - CHRISTIAN - HENDERSON - DAVIESS - MCLEAN - MUHLENBERG - TODD**

01	0100CST	0	0	ABNORMAL WARMTH
28	2300CST			

The month of February averaged about 7 degrees above normal at Paducah, making it the fourth warmest February on record there. This provided area residents with unusual opportunities for outdoor recreation. The mild temperatures caused many trees and plants to blossom early, including creeping phlox, daffodils, and forsythia. The premature buds were vulnerable to late season cold snaps.



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KENTUCKY, Southwest

KYZ009>010-012>022 **CALLOWAY - CRITTENDEN - TRIGG - CALDWELL - UNION - WEBSTER - HOPKINS - CHRISTIAN - HENDERSON - DAVIESS - MCLEAN - MUHLENBERG - TODD**

04	1200CST	0	0	HEAVY SNOW
06	0600CST			

A storm moving slowly northward up the Atlantic coast combined with an east/west oriented trough over the Ohio Valley produced heavy snow over parts of west Kentucky. The heavy snow was confined to areas east of Kentucky Lake, including Hopkinsville and Owensboro. Snowfall totals were generally in the 4 to 10 inch range. Specific amounts included 4 inches at Hopkinsville and Princeton, 6 inches at Calhoun, 9 inches at Madisonville, and 10 inches at Henderson, Owensboro, and Central City. During this first major winter storm of 1998, a traffic fatality occurred. One man was killed in a single vehicle accident about 6 miles north of Hopkinsville around 2 P.M. on the 4th. Many schools dismissed early on the 4th and remained closed on the 5th and 6th. A combination of relatively warm ground temperatures and air temperatures near the melting point made snow removal unusually easy for road crews. Even so, rapid snowfall rates during the height of the storm made roads treacherous, and many accidents occurred. Portions of U.S. 41 were closed near Madisonville when several accidents blocked traffic. Kentucky State Police were swamped with reports of vehicles off of roads.

KYZ005

MCCRACKEN

11	0700CST	0	0	10K	HIGH WIND (G50)
	1600CST				

An intense low pressure system over southeast Missouri during the early morning hours moved northeast across the Ohio Valley. This storm system produced strong gusty winds across the region. Although most gusts were in the 40 to 50 MPH range, one report of damage was received near Paducah. A funeral home under construction near Lone Oak collapsed around noon.

KYZ017

CHRISTIAN

26	1920CST	0	0	5K	HIGH WIND (G50)
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A deepening low pressure center near St. Louis was responsible for strong gusty winds across the region. An isolated case of wind damage occurred near Hopkinsville, where a gas grill was blown off a deck, a tree fell on a utility pole, and storm doors were bent in.

MISSOURI, Southeast

MOZ076-086>087-100-107>112-114 **PERRY - BOLLINGER - CAPE GIRARDEAU - WAYNE - CARTER - RIPLEY - BUTLER - STODDARD - SCOTT - MISSISSIPPI - NEW MADRID**

01	0100CST	0	0	ABNORMAL WARMTH
28	2300CST			

Temperatures averaged well above normal during the month, giving area residents unusual opportunities for outdoor recreation. At Paducah, KY, the month averaged about seven degrees above normal, which made it the fourth warmest February on record there. Trees budded early, and many plants such as creeping phlox and daffodils bloomed early. The premature blossoms were vulnerable to late season cold snaps in March.

MOZ076-086>087-100-107>112-114 **PERRY - BOLLINGER - CAPE GIRARDEAU - WAYNE - CARTER - RIPLEY - BUTLER - STODDARD - SCOTT - MISSISSIPPI - NEW MADRID**

08	0600CST	0	0	FOG
	1000CST			

Dense fog reduced visibility to as low as 100 feet. The fog was most dense in regions from Cape Girardeau to New Madrid.

**CAPE GIRARDEAU
County**

BURFORDVILLE

17	0800CST	0	0	5K	URBAN/SML STREAM FLD
	1100CST				

Persistent moderate to locally heavy rain during the previous night brought rainfall totals to around 2 inches in 8 hours. Since the ground was already saturated, the runoff raised small stream levels very rapidly. The Whitewater River overflowed across County Road 351 near Burfordville. A station wagon stalled as it attempted to cross the flooded roadway. No injuries were reported.